

MONTANA AWARD OF VALOROUS SERVICE

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SYMBOLISM OF THE

MONTANA AWARD OF VALOROUS SERVICE

Cross: Represents the ultimate sacrifice one gives for their country in defense of freedom.

Circle of Stars in Blue: Symbolic of the flag presented to Families of all military deaths.

Gold Star: Established by an Act of Congress on 1 August 1947 to identify widow(er)s, parents, and next of kin whose loved one lost their lives while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing force.

Mountain Ridge: The state name of Montana is Spanish for mountain or mountainous country of which the state has 77 named ranges of the Rocky Mountains.

Sun and Rays: The irradiant sun and rays are symbolic of the new era.

Eagle Feather: The golden eagle feather was a prized mark of a honored warrior in Native American cultures. It is earned through hardship, loyalty and strength. It represents Montana's seven American Indian Reservations.

Shovel and Pick: A series of major mining discoveries in the western third of the state starting in 1862 found gold, silver, copper lead, and coal.

Green and Blue: The green represents the agricultural history in Montana. Blue depicts the many rivers in the state that feed the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Hudson Bay.

Neck Drape: The neck drape is golden yellow and blue in color. The color of golden yellow symbolizes justice, power, strength and perfection. The color blue represents one of Montana's nicknames of Big Sky Country.

Service Ribbon and Attachment: The service ribbon represents distinguished service. Its colors are identical to the colors of the neck drape. The attachment device in the middle of the ribbon recognizes Montana as the 4th largest state in the US, and the 41st state admitted into the union in 1889.